

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action of November 6, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-17 as being indefinite and noted that the claims were replete with errors such as lack of antecedent basis for claimed limitations. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been cancelled and replaced with claim 18. The claims have been reviewed to assure that all claims have antecedent basis.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 as being anticipated by U.S. 5,820,154 (Howe) and U.S. 6,616,174 (Kruajitch). Claims 1, 4, 8 and 9 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. 5,704,628 (Boehm et al) and claims 1-5 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. 6,857,653 (Wilson). The remaining claims were rejected as obvious over these patents except claims 10, 16 and 17 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The indication of allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 18 and 19 recite the hinge connection between the superstructure and ski to define over the prior art. In particular, the connection is indicated as preventing vertical movement for allowing horizontal movement and rotation about the hinges access. In addition, the dependent claims recite limitations regarding the counteracting element not found in the prior art.

The claims are allowable over the prior art and favorable action is eagerly and earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, and the Examiner believes a telephone conversation would resolve such issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

A two-month extension of time accompanies this response.  
If any additional fees are due and owing, the Commissioner is  
authorized to charge Deposit Account 08-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher J. McDonald', written over a horizontal line.

Christopher J. McDonald  
Reg. No. 41,533

April 3, 2008

HOFFMAN, WASSON & GITLER, PC  
2461 South Clark Street  
Crystal Center 2 - Suite 522  
Arlington, VA 22202  
703.415.0100

**Attorney's Docket: A-9798.AMA/cjm/cat**